

**STAKEHOLDER
RECOMMENDATIONS
REGARDING ALTERNATIVES
FOR ANALYSIS BY CALFED**

Presented to:

BAY-DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

Los Angeles, California

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INTRODUCTION

Many of the agricultural, environmental, fishing, and urban water interests that are stakeholders in the CALFED process have been closely following the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's development of alternatives, while independently developing their own individual and joint recommendations for long-term solutions. The enclosed material represents the progress on joint recommendations by these stakeholders to date, which we submit for consideration by the CALFED Program and the Bay-Delta Advisory Council.

These recommendations should be treated as a work in progress, not yet formally endorsed by any of these stakeholder groups. While much has been accomplished during our deliberations, the stakeholders, like CALFED, are still defining and quantifying the problems that should be addressed, and will continue to refine their recommendations concerning the solutions that will best meet the needs of the estuary, as well as improve California's water supply reliability.

As the process moves forward, we commit to assist the CALFED Program as it works toward a long-term solution that will restore the estuary and our water supply reliability. Toward that end, we look forward to working with the CALFED Program and the other interests who have a stake in this process.

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Walter J. Bishop, Contra Costa Water District
Gary Bobker, The Bay Institute of San Francisco
Byron Buck, California Urban Water Agencies
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Jason Peltier, Central Valley Project Water Association
Allen Short, Modesto Irrigation District
Robert R. Smith, Santa Clara Valley Water District
Stanley E. Sprague, Municipal Water District of Orange County
Gregory A. Thomas, Natural Heritage Institute
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CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES

All alternatives to be analyzed by the CALFED Program should contain:

- a comprehensive ecosystem restoration program.
- an enhanced efficient water management program.
- options to improve water supply reliability and predictability, water quality and disaster management.
- appropriate institutional, legal and/or design elements to assure implementation.

To meet these criteria, the stakeholders recommend:

- high priority measures for further analysis by the CALFED Program as core elements of a comprehensive ecosystem restoration program.
- broadly defined options for improving water supply reliability and predictability, water quality, and disaster management, for further analysis by the CALFED Program.
- suggestions for addressing enhanced efficient water management and institutional, legal and design elements.

COMPREHENSIVE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

Potential core elements:

- A comprehensive program of physical habitat restoration in the Delta, the Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds, and Suisun and San Pablo Bays. High priority habitats for further analysis include:

Freshwater and brackish tidal wetlands;
Shaded riverine habitat;
Edge habitat;
River meander corridors; and
Freshwater seasonal wetlands.

- Additional flow and operational requirements.
- Programs to control other factors that adversely affect the Bay-Delta ecosystem, including:

Pollutant loading;
Fish entrainment;
Barriers to fish migration;
Poaching and unsustainable harvest; and
Exotic species.

COMPREHENSIVE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

(continued)

Guiding principles:

- Restore healthy populations and communities of native biota.
- Maintain target fish and wildlife populations at sustainable levels for commercial/recreational harvest.
- Restore natural processes to maximum extent possible.
- Restore diversity of key habitats throughout Delta, Bay, watershed.
- Restore on a broad scale.
- Provide long-term assured funding.
- Manage adaptively:
 - Select appropriate ecological indicators as performance measures.
 - Set targets for restoration program.
 - Implement over time to allow for testing and demonstration.
 - Revise targets as needed to achieve performance measures.
 - Revise performance measures to incorporate new information from adaptive management process.
- Coordinate ongoing environmental programs.

ENHANCED EFFICIENT WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Potential core elements:

- Best management practices for urban water conservation.
- Efficient water management practices for agriculture.
- Enhanced wastewater reclamation and groundwater management.
- Other elements.

Environmental Water Caucus clarification: In addition to AB 3616 and Urban Water Conservation MOU practices, the program should include a number of other measures, such as access to transfers, dry year options and other market-based incentives, water savings associated with land retirement, conservation-based pricing structures, and integrated water resource planning.

OPTIONS TO IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY AND PREDICTABILITY, WATER QUALITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Broadly defined options for further analysis:

A. Recommended by the CUWA/AG Policy Group and the Environmental Water Caucus

- Improved modified through-Delta conveyance.
- Chain of storage lakes.
- Modified isolated transfer facility
min = critical drinking water needs;
max = approx. combined project conveyance capacity
- Combinations of the above.

B. Recommended by the Environmental Water Caucus

- Existing through-Delta conveyance with non-structural improvements.

C. Recommended by the CUWA/AG Policy Group

- East side canal.

Options not worthy of further analysis:

- Traditional modified through-Delta conveyance.
- Traditional Peripheral Canal.

OPTIONS TO IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY AND PREDICTABILITY, WATER QUALITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

(continued)

Guiding principles for analysis of options:

- Alternatives should focus on Delta-related options to improve water supply reliability and predictability, water quality and disaster management, and consider options outside the Delta to the extent necessary to make Delta-related options succeed.

CUWA/AG Policy Group clarification: Create Delta conditions so that water users can employ the full range of management options to meet current and future reasonable needs, including the ability to export water in excess of that necessary to meet water quality objectives protecting all beneficial uses.

Environmental Water Caucus clarification: Enhance Delta opportunities to improve water supply reliability and predictability, in conjunction with appropriate measures outside the Delta. If and when environmentally acceptable opportunities to augment water supplies occur, distribute benefits equitably between instream and offstream uses. Specify all water system elements needed to meet environmental flow needs, including dry year flows.

- Improve the quality of water diverted from the Delta to assist in protecting public health and to assist in the control of the costs of treatment and use, including use for wastewater reclamation and conjunctive groundwater programs.
- Meet water quality needs for all beneficial uses in the Delta. Maintaining water quality when and where it is good and improving water quality when and where it is poor is desirable.
- Reduce vulnerability of water supply system and environment from adverse impacts of levee failure.

INSTITUTIONAL , LEGAL AND/OR DESIGN ELEMENTS TO ASSURE IMPLEMENTATION

Institutional, legal and/or design elements are necessary to assure that:

- the comprehensive ecosystem restoration program is fully implemented and adequately funded.
- the enhanced efficient water management program is fully implemented.
- the water supply system elements are fully implemented and operated as planned.

Issues that should be addressed by the CALFED Program include:

- What form of assurances will provide the necessary level of certainty for instream and offstream uses of the estuary?
- Absent a common Delta pool, can any form of assurances provide the necessary level of certainty?
- How can a comprehensive solution be adequately funded?
- Should opportunities for water supply enhancement be shared between instream and offstream uses? If so, how?

The stakeholders intend to develop further recommendations regarding institutional, legal and design elements and funding issues for consideration by the CALFED Program.